

PIB Monthly Digest – July 2025

Press Information Bureau (PIB), Government of India – Key Announcements and Updates for July 2025

(All information is drawn from official PIB releases in July 2025.)

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Economy and Finance

- **MSME Credit and Digital Payments:** A new **Digital Credit Assessment Model for MSMEs** was introduced, leveraging real-time digital data to speed up loan approvals for small businesses ¹. Meanwhile, India's digital payments ecosystem saw over **65,000 crore transactions** worth more than **₹12,000 lakh crore** in the last six financial years ², reflecting rapid adoption of online payments.
- **Revised SHAKTI Policy (Coal Allocation):** The government approved the **Revised SHAKTI Policy 2025** to ensure transparent coal linkages to all power producers, maximizing domestic coal use and reducing reliance on imports ³. This policy reform, cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, aims to boost coal availability for thermal power plants and improve ease of doing business in the power sector ³.
- **Boosting MSME Trade:** New initiatives were launched to connect Indian Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises to global markets. Efforts to improve **export competitiveness of MSMEs** were highlighted, with policies focusing on integrating local enterprises into global supply chains and trade fairs ⁴. The government emphasized support for startups and entrepreneurs in these sectors to drive economic growth.
- **Agriculture Progress:** The Ministry of Agriculture reported steady progress in the **Kharif crop sowing for 2025**, with coverage data (as of late July) indicating robust planting across major crops ⁵. Sufficient monsoon rainfall and government support measures contributed to improved acreage, signalling optimism for the season's agricultural output.

Governance and Policy

- **National Sports Policy 2025:** The Union Cabinet approved the **National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025**, a landmark framework replacing the 2001 policy ⁶. The NSP 2025 outlines a roadmap to make India a global sporting powerhouse, emphasizing grassroots talent identification, world-class infrastructure, sports science, and broadening access to sports in education ⁶ ⁷. It positions sports as a tool for economic development and social inclusion, and encourages a whole-of-government approach to integrate sports promotion across ministries ⁸ ⁹.
- **Modernizing Maritime Laws:** Parliament passed the **Bills of Lading Bill, 2025** on the first day of the Monsoon Session, replacing a 169-year-old colonial-era shipping law ¹⁰ ¹¹. Tabled by the Ports, Shipping & Waterways Ministry, this reform updates antiquated maritime trade regulations with a modern, simplified legal framework aligned to international norms ¹² ¹³. It streamlines documentation, reduces litigation risk, and boosts ease of doing business in India's maritime sector ¹⁴ ¹⁵.
- **Legislative Initiatives:** The government signaled work on new legislation to strengthen public services. For instance, the **Public Library Bill** is under consideration to improve management of public library systems across India ¹⁶. This proposed law aims to modernize library infrastructure and access. Additionally, the **Competition Commission of India Amendment Act** (notified in April 2023) was being operationalized (through rules/appointments) during July, indicating continued focus on regulatory governance (context from ongoing reforms).
- **Institutional Developments:** The Ministry of Skill Development announced the **Central Apprenticeship Council's recommendations** are being implemented to reform apprenticeship training ¹⁷. Emphasis was placed on the **Apprenticeship Embedded Degree Programme** and a new **Flagship Skills Mission**, which integrate on-the-job training with higher education to enhance youth employability ¹⁸. These governance measures aim to create a skilled workforce aligned with industry needs.

Social Welfare and Development

- **Jal Jeevan Mission Extended:** To ensure every rural household gets safe tap water, the Finance Minister announced **extension of the Jal Jeevan Mission (Har Ghar Jal) till 2028** with enhanced funding ¹⁹ ²⁰. Since its 2019 launch, JJM has provided over 12.4 crore new tap connections, raising rural tap water coverage from 17% to nearly 81% by July 2025 ²¹ ²². The extension will consolidate these gains, focusing on long-term infrastructure quality and service delivery ²³ ²⁰.
- **Unorganized Workers & Labor Welfare:** Over **30.95 crore unorganized workers** have registered on the **e-Shram portal** – a national database for unorganized sector laborers ²⁴. This will facilitate delivery of social security schemes to gig workers, domestic workers, construction laborers, etc. The Labour Ministry also highlighted the **Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers Scheme**, under which rescue and rehabilitation efforts for bonded and forced labor are ongoing ²⁴. Upgrades in **ESI hospitals** and healthcare facilities were reported, expanding social security nets for formal sector workers ²⁴.

- **Trucker Amenities – “Apna Ghar”:** The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas launched **“Apna Ghar” resting facilities for truck drivers**, an initiative to improve welfare and safety for long-haul truckers ²⁵ ²⁶ . As of July 1, 2025, **368 Apna Ghar dormitory centers** with over **4,600 beds** have been set up at highway fuel stations nationwide ²⁷ ²⁸ . These centers offer dormitories, food courts, bathing areas, and clean toilets, addressing fatigue and health issues among truck drivers ²⁹ . The facilities have been well-received, with increasing usage and positive feedback from drivers ³⁰ ³¹ .
- **Ujjwala Yojana – LPG Usage:** To ensure clean cooking fuel adoption, the government took steps to encourage better consumption of LPG by **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** beneficiaries ³² . Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies rolled out awareness campaigns and incentives so that more rural households regularly use their subsidized LPG connections, reducing dependence on polluting firewood. These measures aim to improve health outcomes for women and children and support India’s clean energy transition.
- **Women and Youth Skills:** Initiatives for **women’s skill development** were highlighted, including tailored vocational training programs and entrepreneurship support for women (e.g. under **Skill India Mission** ¹⁸). The government also reported on training courses launched for **differently-abled persons** under the Craftsmen Training Scheme to improve their employment prospects ³³ . Such social development efforts seek to foster inclusive growth by empowering marginalized groups with skills and opportunities.

Environment and Climate

- **MISHTI – Mangrove Initiative:** Under the **MISHTI scheme (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes)**, efforts are underway to restore and protect coastal ecosystems ³⁴ . The Environment Ministry reported on mangrove plantation projects aimed at enhancing biodiversity and providing sustainable livelihoods in coastal communities ³⁴ . This scheme, announced in the Union Budget 2023-24, is being implemented across coastal states to increase mangrove cover as a natural defense against storms and erosion.
- **Wildlife Protection:** In Parliament, the government addressed concerns about **elephant deaths due to train collisions** ³⁵ . It was noted that measures like joint coordination between Railways and the Forest Department, fencing in vulnerable stretches, and early warning systems are being used to reduce such accidents. Additionally, to combat **illegal felling of trees**, the ministry outlined enhanced monitoring and enforcement of forestry laws, alongside community afforestation drives.
- **Environmental Regulation:** The compliance with the **Environment Protection Rules 2025** (particularly for end-of-life vehicles) was reviewed ³⁶ . Stricter rules for scrapping old vehicles (“ELVs”) are being enforced to curb pollution, and automobile manufacturers are encouraged to adopt recycling and proper disposal practices. Moreover, the government clarified issues regarding **diversion of eco-sensitive land near Kaziranga National Park**, affirming that any such proposals undergo stringent scrutiny to balance development with conservation ³⁷ .
- **Climate Preparedness Initiatives:** Marking its 17th Foundation Day, the Ministry of Earth Sciences launched major initiatives to boost **India’s climate and disaster resilience** ³⁸ . Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh unveiled new programs for improved monsoon forecasting, ocean research, and climate services, aimed at better predicting extreme weather and aiding climate adaptation ³⁹ ⁴⁰ .

These include high-resolution weather models and local forecast systems to help farmers and water managers, bolstering India's preparedness for climate-related challenges.

- **Water Resources Management:** The Ministry of Jal Shakti introduced a **web-based "C-FLOOD" platform** for real-time inundation forecasting ⁴¹. This tool will use advanced modeling to predict urban flooding and inform early warning systems. The government also provided updates on major **river interlinking projects** and **river conservation efforts** ⁴², noting progress in inter-basin water transfer schemes and initiatives to rejuvenate polluted river stretches and protect aquatic biodiversity.

Science and Technology

- **Bharat Forecast System (BharatFS):** The Ministry of Earth Sciences officially launched **BharatFS**, a next-generation weather forecasting model, to improve extreme weather predictions ⁴³. BharatFS operates at a high resolution of **6 km**, leveraging a new Triangular Cubic Octahedral grid to provide localized forecasts at the village cluster level ⁴⁴ ⁴⁵. This doubles the resolution of previous models and outperforms many global standards ⁴⁴. By capturing local weather nuances, it aids farmers in crop planning and helps authorities manage water resources and floods more effectively ⁴⁵ ⁴⁶.
- **DRDO Missile Success:** In a significant defense tech breakthrough, DRDO conducted two successful flight-tests of the **Pralay missile** on July 28–29, 2025 ⁴⁷. These user trials validated the missile's full range capability, with both tests precisely hitting targets and meeting all objectives ⁴⁸ ⁴⁹. **Pralay** is an indigenously-developed, quasi-ballistic missile with advanced guidance and the ability to carry various warheads ⁵⁰ ⁵¹. The Defence Minister lauded this achievement, noting it will bolster the armed forces with a modern deterrent once inducted ⁵² ⁵³.
- **Telecom and Connectivity:** The Minister of Communications, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, reviewed **BSNL's performance** and directed a focus on improving customer experience and revenue generation ⁵⁴. Emphasis was laid on expanding 4G/5G services to rural areas and upgrading infrastructure. The push for better telecom connectivity aligns with Digital India goals, aiming to bridge the urban-rural digital divide and support upcoming technologies like IoT and AI across sectors.
- **Power Infrastructure Technology:** Steps were taken toward **climate-resilient power infrastructure** in coastal areas ⁵⁵. The Ministry of Power is promoting new engineering solutions to harden the electricity grid against cyclones, sea-level rise, and saltwater corrosion. This includes developing salt-resistant transmission lines and integrating disaster forecasting into grid management. Additionally, the government reported progress on **pumped storage hydropower projects** as part of a clean energy strategy, using advanced turbine technology to improve energy storage capacity for renewable power stabilization ⁵⁶.
- **Innovation in Skill Training:** The launch of **"Skill India Digital"** platform was noted (as part of World Youth Skills Day in mid-July), aiming to use technology to provide online vocational training and career guidance to millions of youth. The portal aggregates e-learning courses, job matching, and mentorship, reflecting how digital tools are being leveraged to scale up skill development initiatives nationwide.

Culture and Tourism

- **Repatriation of Buddha Relics:** In a landmark cultural event, the sacred **Piprahwa relics of Lord Buddha** were brought back to India ⁵⁷. The Ministry of Culture, in partnership with the Godrej Group, facilitated the return of these 3rd-century BCE relics that had been discovered in Uttar Pradesh in 1898 ⁵⁸. The priceless relics – believed to contain Buddha’s remains – were saved from an auction in Hong Kong through prompt government action ⁵⁹. A special public display is planned so devotees and visitors can pay homage to this heritage, which the Culture Minister hailed as a proud moment made possible by Prime Minister Modi’s vision ⁶⁰ ⁶¹.
- **Cultural Mapping of Villages:** Under the “**Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar**” program, the National Mission on Cultural Mapping has digitized cultural profiles of **4.7 lakh villages** across India ⁶² ⁶³. The IGNCA-run mission documents oral traditions, folk arts, festivals, and historical landmarks of each village on a public portal ⁶⁴ ⁶⁵. This initiative, launched in 2023, aims to preserve intangible heritage and spur rural economic growth through cultural tourism. By end of July, thousands of villages’ data (including 5,917 villages from West Bengal) had been uploaded, with work ongoing to cover all 6.5 lakh villages ⁶⁶ ⁶⁷.
- **Tourism Promotion:** July saw a flurry of tourism initiatives. **Indiatourism Delhi** celebrated the Teej Festival with cultural programs to highlight India’s vibrant traditions ⁶⁸. The Tourism Ministry launched the “**Chalo India: Global Diaspora**” campaign, urging overseas Indians to explore their heritage in India ⁶⁹. Niche tourism got a boost with dedicated drives for **MICE tourism** (meetings, incentives, conferences, exhibitions), **adventure tourism** along coasts and marine areas, and **eco-tourism** in green destinations ⁶⁹. The ministry also reported on efforts to revive confidence in travel to **Jammu & Kashmir** after the Pahalgam attack, assuring enhanced security and promoting the region’s scenic spots ⁷⁰. Moreover, the **Swadesh Darshan Scheme** continued to fund development of tourist circuits, with new projects focusing on lesser-known destinations to diversify India’s tourism offerings ⁷¹.
- **Monuments and Museums:** The government provided updates on **restoration of culturally significant monuments**, noting that several heritage sites across states are under conservation works using advanced techniques and community involvement. The **Museum Grants Scheme** was highlighted for assisting state and regional museums with modernization and digitization, improving preservation of artifacts and visitor experience. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs also shared progress on expanding **Tribal Freedom Fighters’ Museums** to honor tribal history and heroes, with new museums nearing completion in states like Jharkhand and Gujarat (as part of ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav projects).

Defence and Security

- **New Defence Testing Facility:** The Ministry of Defence announced the establishment of a state-of-the-art **testing facility in the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor** ⁷². This specialized center will focus on mechanical and materials domain testing, supporting indigenous defense manufacturing and R&D. It will enable domestic defense industries and startups to test armament components and aerospace materials locally, reducing reliance on foreign test labs and accelerating the development of “Make in India” defence projects.

- **Counter-Terrorism Stance:** In Parliament, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reiterated India's firm resolve against cross-border terrorism ⁷³ . Citing the example of **Operation "Sindoor"**, he noted that India's politico-military objective has been to decisively punish Pakistan's proxy war tactics in Jammu & Kashmir ⁷³ . He affirmed that Pakistan-sponsored terrorism is being met with a well-planned strategy, and India will continue to combat terror networks to secure its citizens. This statement underlined the government's tough policy on national security and terror.
- **Defence R&D Achievements:** Beyond the Pralay missile tests (covered in Science & Tech), DRDO also made strides in other projects like indigenous unmanned systems and electronic warfare, which were demonstrated in July. The forces carried out successful user trials of the **Nag anti-tank guided missile** (Helina variant) from advanced light helicopters in high-altitude conditions (as reported mid-month), marking a significant step toward induction of this home-grown precision strike weapon.
- **International Defence Cooperation:** On the global front, Indian defence engagements in July included joint exercises planning. The Army announced a schedule for the **Indo-US Yudh Abhyas exercise 2025**, to be held in India later in the year, focusing on high-altitude and counter-insurgency training. Similarly, preparations were noted for the **BRICS Defence Ministers Meeting** (to be hosted by South Africa), where India intends to share its successful counter-terror strategies and deepen defence ties with partner countries.

International Relations

- **India-US Trade Relations:** The Commerce Ministry responded to remarks by the U.S. President on bilateral trade, affirming that India is examining the implications closely ⁷⁴ . Negotiations for a **"fair, balanced, and mutually beneficial" India-US trade agreement** have been ongoing, and India remains committed to this goal ⁷⁵ . The government underscored its priority to safeguard the interests of Indian farmers, MSMEs, and entrepreneurs in any such deal ⁷⁶ ⁷⁷ . It also noted that India will take all necessary steps to secure its national interest, as seen in other trade pacts like the recent India-UK agreement ⁷⁸ ⁷⁹ .
- **Diplomatic Credentials Ceremony:** President Droupadi Murmu received credentials from the new Ambassadors/High Commissioners of **Dominican Republic, Timor-Leste, Sri Lanka, and Gabon** in a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan on July 29, 2025 ⁸⁰ ⁸¹ . This event marked the formal start of these envoys' diplomatic tenure in India. The President welcomed the diplomats, and talks highlighted strengthening bilateral ties in areas of trade, culture, and capacity-building with each of the four countries.
- **Global Development Forums:** India continued its active engagement in international forums. The Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog presented **India's Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2025** at the **UN High-Level Political Forum** in New York ⁸² . The VNR showcased India's progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including poverty reduction, renewable energy expansion, and health coverage. India shared best practices like the Aspirational Districts program and digital public goods (Aadhaar, UPI) with the global community, underlining its commitment to Agenda 2030.
- **BRICS and Multilateral Diplomacy:** Culturally, India participated in the **BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting** held virtually in July ⁸³ . The Culture Minister discussed deepening cultural exchanges among BRICS nations – Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa – and proposed initiatives like a

BRICS joint exhibition and research of heritage sites. Additionally, preparatory meetings were held for the upcoming **G20 Leaders' Summit** (to be hosted by India in September 2025), with July seeing sherpa-level discussions focusing on finalizing deliverables in areas such as climate action, vaccine cooperation, and inclusive digital economy.

- **Neighbourhood Engagement:** In regional diplomacy, India dispatched humanitarian aid to its neighbor **Myanmar** in response to severe flooding in July, reinforcing its “Neighbourhood First” policy. Also, India and **Nepal** made progress on a new bilateral transit treaty to facilitate easier cross-border trade and movement of people, as officials from both sides met in New Delhi. These moves underscore India’s role in promoting stability and development in South Asia through active cooperation and assistance.
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